

**2019 Island County Conservation Futures Fund
Pearson Shoreline Acquisition**

Sponsor: Whidbey Camano Land Trust

Contact: Ryan Elting

Address: 765 Wonn Rd C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253

Phone: 360-222-3310

Fax: 360-222-3510

E-mail: ryan@wclt.org

Project Budget Summary:

Total Land Value	\$2,000,000
Total Costs of Services (staff time, appraisal, survey, Phase 1 Environmental Assessment, trail signs, interpretive signs, fencing, invasive species removal, etc.)	\$98,000
Total Project Cost	\$2,098,000
CFF Amount Requested in 2019	\$210,000

Parcel Numbers:

R42931-135-0080; R42931-071-0470; R42806-485-0240; R42931-142-0940; R32936-020-5200;
R42806-472-0570 (tidelands)

Landowner Names:

Estate of William Pearson

Landowner Contact Information: (Please use Land Trust project manager as contact point.)

Primary Contact: Ryan Elting, Conservation Director

Mailing Address: 765 Wonn Road C-201, Greenbank, WA 98253

Phone: (360) 222-3310

E-mail ryan@wclt.org

Project Description:

The Pearson Shoreline property, along Possession Sound south of Clinton, consists of 54 acres of undeveloped forested uplands and private tidelands spanning more than one-half mile (2,820 feet) along the shoreline.

In 2016, the Board of Island County Commissioners approved the County Parks Department to partner with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust to pursue grant funds to protect fish and wildlife habitat and create permanent public beach use, in an underserved area of Whidbey Island. conserve the Pearson Shoreline property, and secure public beach access. Three years later, all grant funding for the purchase of the property has been secured except for the 10% local match required by the State grant. This proposal will fulfill this local funding requirement and allow acquisition of the property.

The Land Trust will own and manage the property and the County will hold a conservation easement that ensures permanent public access to this site for activities including birding, nature-viewing, picnicking, beachcombing and kayaking, as well as precluding any future development on this unstable bluff property. The site is also well situated on the Cascadia Marine Trail, a Washington Water Trail and designated National Recreation Trail, and would provide a needed stopover point for kayakers and other non-motorized boaters. The property's picturesque beach, abundant eelgrass beds, juvenile salmon and forage fish habitat, mature coastal forest, and two seasonal streams contribute to the high environmental quality of the property and its attractiveness to recreationists.

The Land Trust will bring Salmon Recovery funds (already secured) and the local Conservation Futures Funds (this request), to purchase the underlying land interest, and the state \$750,000 Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant (already secured) and the \$985,000 federal National Coastal Conservation and Wetland grant (already secured) will be used by the County to fund the purchase of the conservation easement that will ensure permanent public access to the property's long expanse of shoreline.

ATTACHMENT B

ESTIMATED PROJECT BUDGET

ISLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES FUND

PROPOSED PROJECT APPLICATION

PROJECT NAME =	Pearson Shoreline Acquisition		YEAR 2019	
	Category	CFF	Other Funding Sources	Total Funding
Planning				
	Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Consultants/Sub-Contracting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Goods and Services*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Travel & Per Diem	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Maintenance and Operations				
	Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Consultants/Sub-Contracting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Goods and Services*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Travel & Per Diem	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Maintenance / Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Management &				
	Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Consultants/Sub-Contracting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Goods and Services*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Travel & Per Diem	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Management & Admin	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment				
	Technology Capital Items*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Technology Supplies*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Equipment*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Property Acquisition				
	Land Purchase	\$210,000	\$1,790,000	\$2,000,000
	Other Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$ 98,000	\$ 98,000
	Total Acquisition Costs	\$210,000	\$1,888,000	\$2,098,000
	Total Budget	\$210,000	\$1,888,000	\$2,098,000

* For all line items listed with "**", please provided an attached detailed list of items and costs

Project Narrative:

A. Conservation Values & Resources:

1. Rarity of resources or habitats protected:

a. Significance of resources protected:

The Pearson Shoreline project will protect 54 acres, including 2,820 feet of intact bluff-backed shoreline, 13 acres of private tidelands with abundant eelgrass beds, and 41 acres of mature, coastal upland forest. All of these habitats are specifically identified in regional plans as high protection priorities and, together, they benefit a wide range of marine, nearshore, and forest dependent species, both on- and off-site.

Scattered remnant old-growth trees and mature forest on the project uplands provide nesting, perching, and roosting sites for a variety of birds and mammals, including federal- and state-listed Pileated Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, and Vaux's Swift. Birds known to nest on site include Bald Eagles and Osprey, Pigeon Guillemot, as well as Pileated Woodpeckers and Great Horned Owls. Bald Eagles have nested on the property every year for the past seven years. The forest also provides excellent habitat for cavity-nesting bats.

The property's ~150 foot-high feeder bluffs provide regular sediment inputs to the beach and nearshore habitats that drive ecological processes and enrich tidal flats from the project site, all the way to Sandy Point, 5.8 miles north. Trees and shrubs overhanging the tidelands from the vegetated bluffs provide terrestrial organics and invertebrates into the nearshore that fuel nearshore benthic communities. In addition to their importance for maintaining beaches and spits, actively eroding feeder bluffs play an important role in the formation of complex nearshore habitats that have greatly diminished in Puget Sound over the past century.

The sediments from the bluffs enrich and maintain the shallow nearshore habitats that support eelgrass beds, which are the required spawning habitat for sand lance and herring, the primary food sources for endangered Puget Sound Chinook salmon and other salmon species. The finer-grained sediments here are the key component of the necessary substrate for species like pandalid shrimp, a food source important for grey whales during their seasonal use of Possession Sound. The coastal beaches are also habitat for Dungeness crab, many hard-shelled clam species, geoducks, and diverse benthic invertebrates that form the backbone of the nearshore food chain.

The Pearson tidelands are identified in the Island County Multi-Species Salmon Recovery Plan as a high protection priority for juvenile salmon habitat and a very high protection priority for forage fish habitat. The project will protect one of the largest stretches of intact coastal habitats under single ownership on southeast Whidbey Island. Other regional, state, and local plans that reference the site's resources are listed in Exhibit B.

The full ecological value of the Pearson property extends well beyond the project boundaries. The property spans 2,820 feet of Possession Sound shoreline and is directly across from the mouth of the Snohomish River, one of the most productive salmon rivers in Puget Sound. Salmon fry exiting the Snohomish River rely heavily on the shallow habitats on the west side of Possession Sound as refuge, and substantial use by foraging juvenile Puget Sound Chinook is documented here. The property is also located about one-half mile north of the mouth of Glendale Creek, one of only three salmon-spawning streams on Whidbey Island. Precluding development on the property's uplands will maintain the natural functioning of its feeder bluffs that nourish the healthy nearshore habitats that juvenile Chinook and other salmon species depend on.

The healthy, functioning nearshore and upland habitats described above, require minimal restoration, making it highly suitable for conservation.

b. Rarity of resources or habitats protected:

The Pearson property's 2,820 feet of un-armored natural shoreline is one of only a handful of similar beach ownerships of such length in Island County. The eelgrass beds on the project site are a nationally-declining nearshore habitat type that is highly important for a large variety of marine species. On Whidbey Island, and across Puget Sound, nearshore wetlands have been heavily impacted by bluff-top development. The project abuts Possession Sound, an ecologically critical stretch of the Whidbey Basin coastline, and one of the most important migratory shorebird and waterfowl areas on the West Coast. Puget Sound wetlands provide essential habitat for millions of migratory birds, and over five million birds migrate, overwinter, or reside along this particular stretch of Puget Sound shoreline, including many shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors.

B. Appropriate Public Use and Enjoyment:

The Pearson property will provide access to low-impact recreation including hiking, beachcombing, fishing, and nature-viewing, along more than one-half mile of beach and nearly

a mile of trails through a mature coastal forest. The site is well suited for public access with an existing gravel road that leads to the beach. Such a road could never be built under current County codes, but its presence provides a unique opportunity to get residents and visitors to the beach. The road will be maintained as a pedestrian trail, and an existing pull-out off the paved county road will be enlarged and improved to accommodate visitor parking. With the trail and cleared pull-off area already in place, minimal further disturbance will be necessary to prepare the property for public use, and the passive recreational uses proposed for the site are compatible with protecting its resources, while offering the public an opportunity to quietly enjoy them.

The property features a wide grassy area next to the beach that would be suitable as a new stopover and potential campsite for non-motorized boaters along the Cascadia Marine Trail, a Washington Water Trail and designated National Recreation Trail that stretches from south Puget Sound up to British Columbia. With the exception of Possession Point State Park, there are no other marine trail campsites on south Whidbey Island. Having a potential new stopover site on this side of Possession Sound will make this portion of the Marine Trail more accessible to non-motorized boaters of all levels.

C. Plan Consistency and Partnerships:

Protection of the Pearson Shoreline project is consistent with the following local and regional plans, as well as the local, state, and national plans listed in Exhibit B.

1. Island County Comprehensive Plan (ICCP):

Protection of the Pearson Shoreline property, with its significant beach access, fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, feeder bluffs, and low-impact recreational opportunities will further several goals of the Island County Comprehensive Plan. These goals include:

a) Natural Resources Element:

- Goal 3: Protect wetlands from a net loss in functions.
- Goal 4: Protect Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas.
- Goal 6: Protect the public health, safety and welfare from threats resulting from incompatible development being sited on or near steep and/or unstable slopes.
- Goal 8: Protect aquifer recharge areas from contamination and ensure long-term recharge potential.

- Goal 10: Conserve a variety of natural lands, in both public and private ownership, for the enjoyment and economic benefit of current and future residents of Island County.
- Goal 11: Prioritize the protection of natural lands that coincide with other valuable resources, including ecological, historical, agricultural, recreational, and cultural lands.

b) Parks and Recreation Element:

- Goal 2: Provide low-impact/passive outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the County. Specifically, the Plan states that “new parks and/or habitat conservation areas are needed around Clinton to address nature trail needs.”
- Goal 3: Increase public access to the County’s beaches and shoreline areas, creating recreation opportunities that respect the ecological integrity of the shoreline ecosystem.
- Goal 4: Acquire lands that conserve priority habitat and natural resources, preserve open space, improve beach access, maintain island character, and improve and expand passive outdoor recreational opportunities for public enjoyment.
- Goal 8: Foster partnerships and county-wide collaboration among park and habitat providers to improve the provision of habitat conservation and recreation services.

2. WRIA 6 Multi-species Salmon Recovery Plan (May 2005):

The Pearson project will help implement Island County’s Multi-species Salmon Recovery Plan, by protecting high priority nearshore habitat. The stretch of shoreline that encompasses the Pearson property is identified as a very high protection priority for forage fish, including sand lance and herring, which use the site’s eelgrass beds for spawning habitat. The property is also identified as a high protection priority for juvenile salmon, which find shelter and forage in the eelgrass beds, and feed on terrestrial insect rain that is deposited from riparian vegetation growing along the undeveloped shoreline.

3. Washington State Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) – 2014/2015 Action Agenda:

The Protection and Restoration of habitat is one of three region-wide strategic initiatives identified by the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda. The Pearson property is a critical addition to protection efforts on southeast Whidbey Island, given the small amount of intact habitat and protected lands along this stretch of shoreline.

The Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda also identifies improving public access to Puget Sound as another of its three strategic initiatives. With 10 acres of tidelands and more than one-half mile of beach with a scenic upland trail, the Pearson property would add significantly to public beach access on south Whidbey Island and Puget Sound.

4. Documented support for this project by planning partners, other organizations, and citizens:

There is a long history on Whidbey Island of trying to protect the Pearson property from development, and community support for the project is expected to be very strong. Organizations such as the Washington Water Trails Association and Whidbey Audubon Society are thrilled at the possibility of adding one-half mile of public beach access and protecting critical fish and wildlife habitat on south Whidbey Island.

The Pearson Shoreline acquisition project has documented support from:

- Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
- Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Washington Water Trails Association
- Whidbey Audubon Society
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington Veterans Conservation Corps
- Private citizens, mostly Clinton residents

D. Potential for Loss:

1. Immediacy and magnitude of potential loss of areas identified as having long-term rural significance or land suitable for conservation.

In June 2017, the longtime landowner, Bill Pearson, declined an appraised fair market offer to purchase the property by the Land Trust. The following May, Mr. Pearson passed away. His executor is now preparing to market the property, for the first time in anyone's living memory, for sale as part of the process of settling the estate. The appraisal of the property, including consulting with the Planning Department, indicated that the property can be

developed into eight bluff-top homesites. This would represent the loss of a highly valuable beach access opportunity and have a direct, negative impact on bluff stability and associated nearshore habitats. Development of the uplands would degrade the quality of Bald Eagle nesting habitat, and the productive eelgrass beds that support forage fish spawning, salmon, shellfish and migratory birds. Acquiring the Pearson property is the most cost-effective way to maintain functioning habitats on-site and coastal wetland habitats along the rest of this drift cell. Protection of the property will also allow restoration of impacted areas, including invasive plant and creosote removal. In addition, building on feeder bluffs next to a county road often has a huge financial impact to Island County and its taxpaying citizens when bluffs fail.

2. Immediacy of acquisition timing: opportunity with landowner and leveraged funding.

This very moment is our last and best opportunity to protect this amazing piece of Whidbey Island shoreline before it is sold and developed. The commitment of 10 percent local match through CFF is all that is necessary to allow the use of the \$1.9 million of federal and state funding already secured.

E. Assessment of Stewardship Viability:

1. Stewardship needs are identified and adequately addressed with an appropriate management plan or application includes funding request for management plan:

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust develops management plans for all of its fee-owned lands to address long-term stewardship and public access needs. Funding for developing this plan is available through the State grants. In addition, funding for immediate stewardship needs, including invasive species removal, fencing, and signage, are covered by the federal and state grant funding for the project.

To ensure appropriate and compatible public access, the Land Trust will need to install fencing on certain sections of the road leading to the beach, and fence-off and decommission several old roads. To this end, the WA Veterans Conservation Corps has committed to assisting with invasive species removal, installing native plantings, and reclaiming roads and trails that are not intended for public use.

The Land Trust also recruits volunteer land stewards for every property we own, who maintain weekly scheduled visits to the property and carry out specific tasks.

Lastly, the WA Department of Natural Resources has committed to removing two stockpiles of creosote treated telephone poles on the Property uplands.

2. Potential risks and liabilities to protect long-term conservation values and resources are identified and adequately addressed:

As stated above, certain measures will need to be taken to direct public access to the desired, appropriate locations, which includes a future parking area, the existing road/trail to the shoreline, and the shoreline beach area. Beyond public access, invasive plant control is needed to deal with noxious weeds, particularly along the road to the beach, and the landing area at the base of the road by the beach. Funding is available for this effort in the short-term, and long-term control will be part of the Land Trust's on-going maintenance.

3. Identifies long-term costs of maintenance and capital improvements (if any) and are adequately addressed:

Capital improvements will be limited to a small parking area off of Humphrey Road, and the Land Trust will seek funds for its design and construction. As use increase, we will also provide a sani-can for visitors.

Funds from the State grants are sufficient to cover invasive species removal that will supplement the efforts committed by the WA Veterans Conservation Corps.

F. Financial Strategies:

1. Acquisition cost efficiencies and financial strategy (including matching contributions) to leverage use of funds:

The State grant requires local match in the amount of 10 percent of the total project cost, for which the Land Trust is hereby requesting \$210,000 from the Conservation Futures Fund.

For its part, the Land Trust will bring Salmon Recovery funds (already secured) to purchase the underlying land interest, and the state and federal grants will be used by the County to acquire the conservation easement to ensure permanent public access.

2. Strategy for managing future costs, liability and risk issues (for example, acquisition of minimum controlling interest).

The Land Trust has not identified any notable risks or liabilities related to protecting the long-term conservation values and resources of the property. The Land Trust will be responsible for the long-term management and maintenance of the site, and has a Stewardship Reserve Fund, Legal Defense Fund, and legal defense insurance, all of which help ensure the Land Trust's ability to manage the site in perpetuity.

In addition, the Land Trust has a robust volunteer program that currently engages more than 150 volunteers per year who contribute more than 3,500 hours stewarding Land Trust properties. Several volunteers have expressed interest in adopting the Pearson property as volunteer Site Stewards if the site is successfully protected.

To prevent bluff-top development that would destabilize the bluff and endanger the property's habitats, and to allow public access through the property and along the beach, fee-simple ownership is the minimal controlling interest feasible. The partnership helps achieve the goals and metrics of the County's Comprehensive Plan, and by partnering with the Land Trust the County only needs to hold a conservation easement interest in the property.

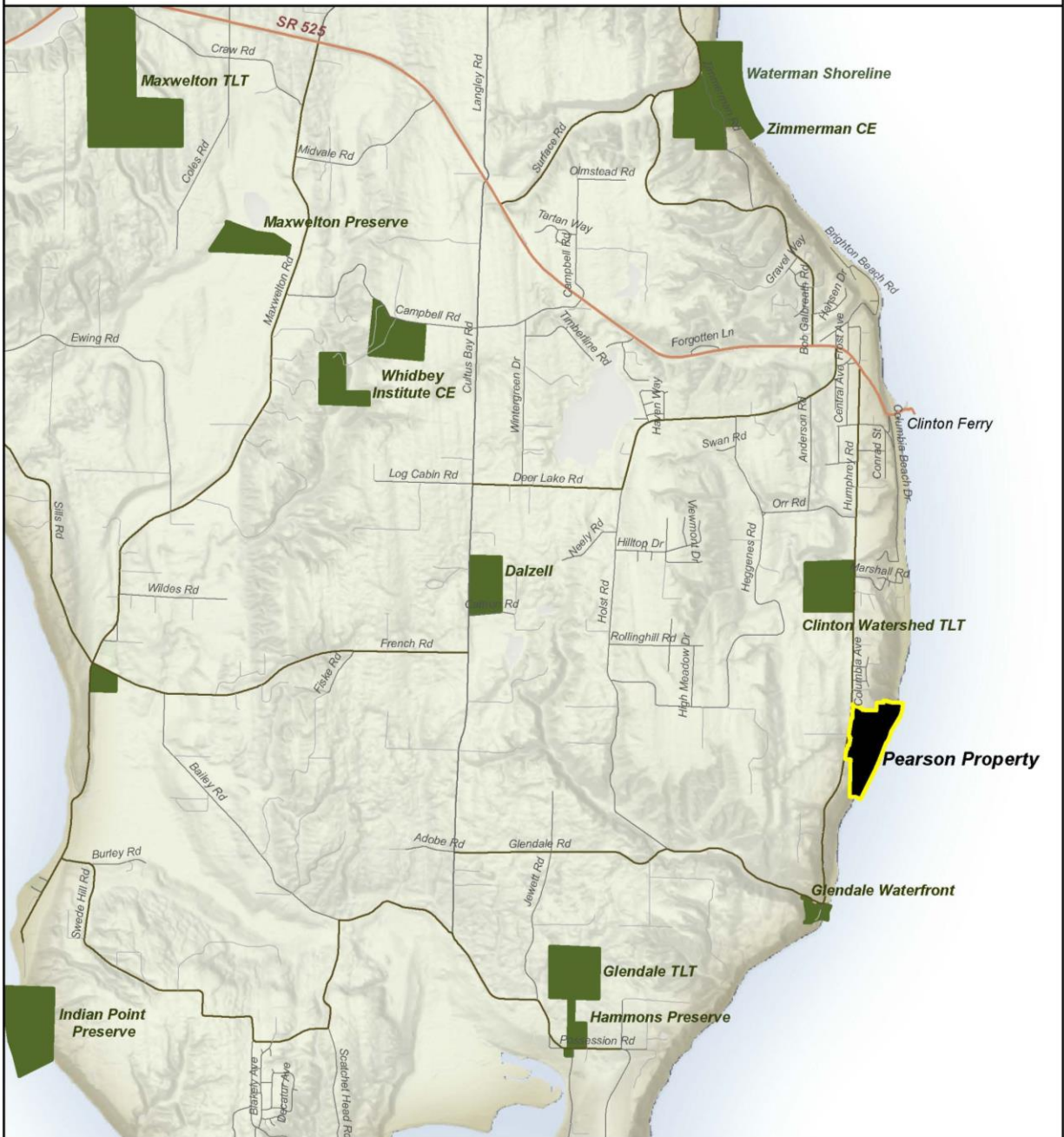
Exhibit A: Pearson Shoreline Project Photos





**WHIDBEY
CAMANO**
LAND TRUST

Pearson Shoreline - Vicinity Map



Subject Property



Land Trust Protected



Property boundaries are taken from Island County GIS tax parcel maps. These boundaries are approximate and may not match on-the-ground fencelines or actual survey markers.





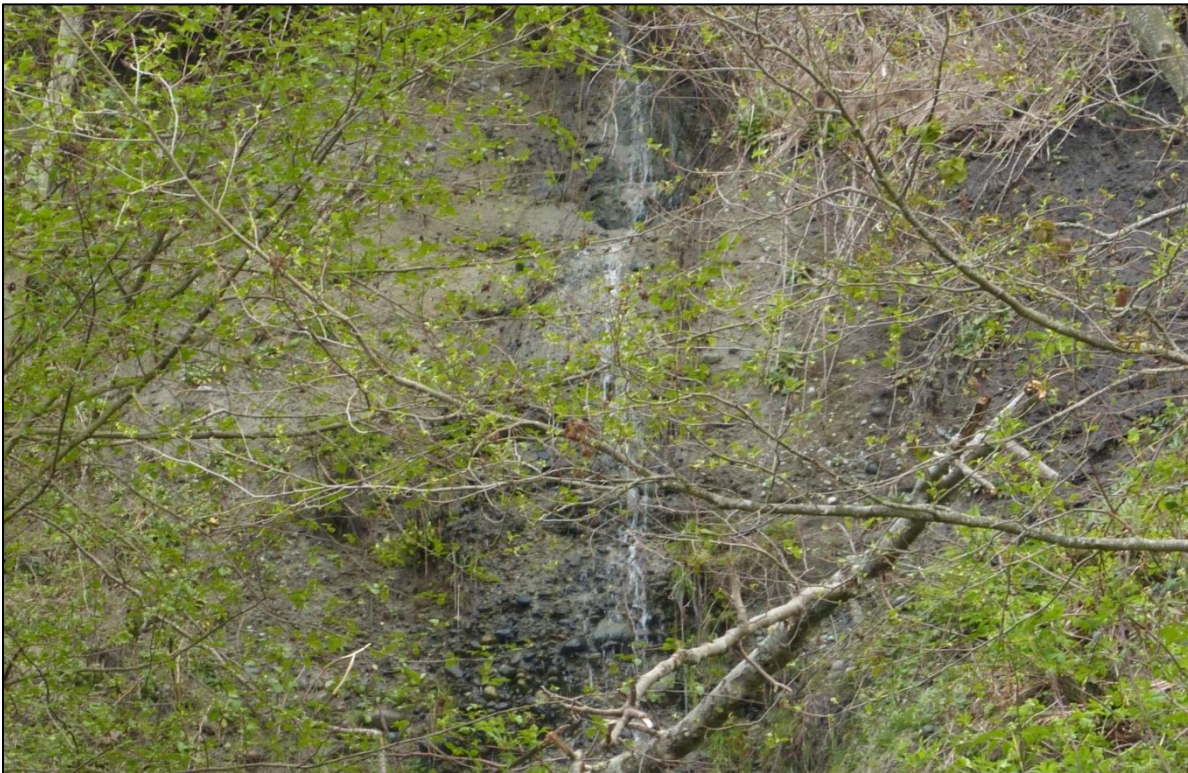
The Pearson Shoreline property features 2,820 feet of intact feeder bluff, beach, and tidelands with eelgrass beds.



View of the beach from the trail on the Pearson Shoreline uplands.



The Pearson property will provide beach and trail access for a variety of low-impact recreational uses.



There are two seasonal streams and several wetlands on the property that contribute to the site's high environmental quality.

Exhibit B: Local, Regional, and National conservation plans supported by the project

Management Plan or Effort	How this Project Helps Implement its Goals
Local Plans:	This drift-cell is identified in the Plan and the project addresses the two highest priorities: protection of intact habitats and habitat restoration
WRIA 6 Multi-Species Salmon Recovery Plan	
Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program: Strategies for Nearshore Protection and Restoration	The site drift-cell is identified as the highest potential restoration site for beach sites in the Whidbey sub-basin
Island County - Shoreline Master Plan 2012	One of very few properties that meet the plan criteria for “Natural” shoreline
Island County - Critical Areas Plan and Comprehensive Plan	Area of local importance: feeder bluff is <i>critical area</i> ; nearshore is <i>Marine Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area</i>
Washington State Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) - 2012 State of the Sound	Project implements the main goal of protecting intact nearshore habitat, restoring the natural drift cell, and removing invasive species to enhance the upland native forest thereby protecting water quality entering the Sound
State/Regional Plans:	Project protects habitats that help keep common species common, and marine nearshore <i>habitat of importance</i> . Also addresses degradation of natural shoreline and invasive species, two problems for marine nearshore habitat
WDFW Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy	
Washington State -- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan	The Project addresses the need to protect salmon supporting lands, wetlands, shorelines, and habitat diversity, especially those lands that can be effectively managed for their ecological value and are threatened with development
Pacific Coast Joint Venture Strategic Plan	The Project advances the Plan stated goal of 1,575 acres of habitat protection on Whidbey Island to secure critical wetlands, tidelands, and associated upland habitats by 3%
Northern Pacific Coast Regional Shorebird Management Plan, 2000	The Pearson property includes the type and quality of habitat in need of protection for shorebirds
Conservation Strategy for Landbirds in Lowlands & Valleys of West OR & WA	Preserves snags, dense understory shrub layer, subcanopy and large canopy trees in the Project uplands

National/International Plans:	
North American Waterfowl Management Plan	Project furthers multiple population and habitat objectives and protection, restoration and enhancement goals for the Region by protecting key habitats that needed by waterfowl
U.S. Shorebirds Conservation Plan	Project addresses the goal of maintaining adequate quantity and quality of habitat to support the array of shorebirds that use this critical flyway
North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Protection allows the opportunity to restore habitats that support the life cycle needs of waterbirds
National Estuary Program (US EPA)	The project is in Puget Sound and addresses a priority management issue – estuarine habitat loss and alteration
Coastal Zone Management Act	The Project eliminates development potential, addressing the need to “preserve, protect and restore or enhance the resources of the nation’s coastal zone.”



PO Box 1012
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
www.whidbeyaudubon.org

June 10, 2015

Heather Kapust
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: 2015 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant – Pearson Coastal Wetlands

Dear Ms. Kapust,

Whidbey Audubon Society fully supports the Department of Ecology's grant application for the acquisition of tidelands, feeder bluff, and upland forest at the Pearson property, located on the southeast side of Whidbey Island. We will commit a minimum of \$500 worth of in-kind services to assist in the protection and enhancement of this land.

This area is vital for protecting wildlife habitat and preserving open space. The property serves an abundant and diverse number of bird species including cavity nesting birds, Waterbirds, and Shorebirds. It will also allow the opportunity for low-impact public recreational activities. Very few properties on Whidbey Island offer this kind of opportunity for protection of over ½ mile of shoreline habitats.

Members of our organization will conduct bird inventories and counts here; this entails three to five volunteers visiting the site monthly for about six months, three hours at a time. Our members will also lead scientific/educational tours for the public in the project area. These efforts and activities will be worth a minimum of \$500 and will create a better understanding of the property's habitat and the birds and wildlife that use it.

The residents of Island County treasure the open space and habitat protection provided by habitats like those at Pearson and supports projects like these as they align with our chapter's Mission Statement.

Whidbey Audubon Society has collaborated with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, who will be taking the lead on this project, on many other projects and sincerely hopes this effort succeeds in protecting this critical land for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Whidbey Audubon Society is dedicated to the understanding, appreciation and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats on Whidbey Island and in surrounding waters.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anna Swartz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anna" and the last name "Swartz" clearly distinguishable.

Anna Swartz
President, Whidbey Audubon Society



June 10, 2015

Heather Kapust
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Subject: Support of Pearson Property Creosote Removal

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you in support of a proposed project initiated by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust. I have been in contact with Conservation Director Ryan Elting, regarding a project on the shoreline of Possession Sound on Whidbey Island as it relates to land acquisition and the removal of creosote pilings from the project nearshore. Upon purchase of the proposed property, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Restoration Program is committed to removing the aforementioned creosote to facilitate the restoration of this valuable habitat. DNR is dedicated to providing \$25,000 of partner match for this work. DNR is strongly committed to managing aquatic lands for fostering water dependent uses, public access, and ensuring environmental protection.

This project will result in the removal of a large quantity of creosote from the waters of the Puget Sound, reestablishment of coastal sediment transport, and the return of natural feeder bluff processes. Creosote debris has been shown to cause negative impact to the aquatic environment and our program is committed to its removal from the Puget Sound. The results of this work will not only benefit Whidbey Island coastline but the adjacent state owned aquatic lands as well.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Robertson
Restoration Manager
Aquatic Restoration Program
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Phone: 360-854-2808
Cell: 360-708-7226
Christopher.Robertson@dnr.wa.gov



Island County
Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizens Committee

P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

June 22, 2018

Suzanna Stoike, PSAR Program Manager
Puget Sound Partnership
326 East D St., Tacoma, WA 98501
RE: Letter of Support for Pearson Shoreline Acquisition

Dear Suzanna & PSAR Large Cap Team Members,

As the appointed citizen's advisory board for the WRIA 6 Island lead entity, the Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizens Committee (SRTCC) approves the Whidbey Camano Land Trust applying for Large Cap Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration (PSAR) funding for 18-1832 Pearson Shoreline Acquisition project.

This project will result in the acquisition and protection of a 52-acre property including 2,820 feet of feeder bluff, 10-acres of tidelands, and 39-acres of upland with two streams that cascade down the forested bluffs to the shoreline below. This property offers nearshore benefits to out- and in-migrating salmon that rely on the nearshore for their survival through the following habitats: eelgrass, feeder bluffs and upland forest and wetlands. The Pearson Shoreline Acquisition project advances priority restoration efforts called for in WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Please let me know if you need more information.

Sincerely,

Todd Zackey, Co-Chair
Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee
WRIA 6 Lead Entity
Island County



4649 Sunny side Avenue N.
Ste. #307
Seattle, WA 98103
206-545-9161

Board of Directors:

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Bru Virginia

Adam Brunsak

Staff:

*Rob Sendak,
Executive Director*

*Elin Ward,
Project Director*

August 5, 2016

Whidbey Camano Land Trust
765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253

RE: Support Letter for the Pearson Shoreline Project

Dear Whidbey Camano Land Trust,

Washington Water Trails Association would like to express its strong support for the Land Trust's partnership with Island County to protect the Pearson Shoreline property on southeast Whidbey Island. We understand that the County and the Land Trust are working to protect the property for permanent public beach access, and that grant funding is necessary to complete the project, and we hereby offer our full backing for this pursuit.

WWTA is pleased to see the County working with the Land Trust to protect the Pearson Shoreline property, which is very much in alignment with our goals and objectives for increasing public access sites on the Cascadia Marine Trail. The CMT was designated a National Recreation Trail in 1994 and with that designation came our commitment to engage with land managers to create 'safe harbor' public access sites on the trail (whether for overnight or day use).

With more than one-half mile of beach and tidelands, and trails through mature upland forest, the property would provide tremendous public benefit, offering a variety of low-impact public recreational opportunities, and scenic open space, while protecting important fish and wildlife habitat. We are entirely confident that, if funded, this partnership will produce a wonderful new, and much needed, opportunity to access and enjoy Whidbey Island's shoreline.

If you would like to learn more about the Cascadia Marine Trail, or Washington Water Trails Association, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. Thanks for all you do with conservation and recreation.

Best Regards,

Rob Sendak
Executive Director
Washington Water Trails Association
rob@wwta.org
206-545-9161



Island County
Water Resources Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

May 23, 2016

David Troutt, Chair
Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council
c/o Puget Sound Partnership
326 E D St
Tacoma WA 98421

RE: Letter of Support for 16-1431 Pearson Shoreline Acquisition

As the appointed citizen's advisory board for the WRIA 6 Island lead entity, the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) recommends funding the Pearson Shoreline Acquisition from the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Large Capital fund.

This project will result in the protection of the largest, undeveloped stretch of shoreline on Possession Sound between Clinton and Glendale. The 49 acre parcel will be protected, in perpetuity, to provide beach access and habitat for humans and wildlife.

Once the land is in Whidbey Camano Land Trust (WCLT) ownership, the piles of creosote-soaked timbers will then be removed, which will protect water quality and prevent storm water runoff into the two streams that run from the upland down-slope to the eelgrass beds in the nearshore.

Opportunities for land acquisition this large and significant are usually priced at funding levels beyond the scope of local organizations and require partnerships from outside our county. We would like to support the WCLT in facilitating those partnerships, specifically with the Puget Sound Partnership and the funding sources the Partnership makes available.

Sincerely,

Don Lee, Chair
Water Resources Advisory Committee
WRIA 6 Lead Entity
Island County